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**Box Patent Application
Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231**

New U.S. Patent Application
Title: PROCESS FOR PRODUCING A SILICA-REINFORCED RUBBER
COMPOUND

being a Continuation of PCT International
Application No. PCT/EP00/02665 filed March 27, 2000
Inventors Names and Addresses:

- 1) Gianluigi HOTELLIER
Milano, Italy
- 2) Antonio PRONI
Lodi, Italy

Dear Sir:

We enclose the following papers for filing in the United States Patent and Trademark Office under 35 U.S.C. 111(a) as a **Continuation** application of PCT International Application No. PCT/EP00/02665 filed March 27, 2000 which claimed priority of European Patent Application No. 99830189.9, filed April 1, 1999, and U.S. Provisional Application No. 60/134,665, filed May 18, 1999.

1. Specification consisting of 35 pages, including 2 independent claims and 18 claims total (as amended)
2. Preliminary Amendment.
3. Drawings 2 sheets of formal drawings containing 2 figures.
4. Certified copy of European Application No. 99830189.9 filed April 1, 1999.

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5. Information Disclosure Statement and Information Disclosure Citation, PTO 1449 with 8 documents attached.
6. Copy of cover page of International Publication No. WO 00/59699
7. The filing fee is calculated as follows:

Basic Application Filing Fee					\$740	\$740.00
	Number of Claims		Basic	Extra Claims		
Total Claims	18	-	20		x \$18	
Independent Claims	2	-	3		x \$84	
<input type="checkbox"/> Presentation of Multiple Dep. Claim(s)					+\$280	
Subtotal					\$	740.00
Reduction by 1/2 if small entity					-	
TOTAL APPLICATION FILING FEE					\$	740.00

8. A check for \$740.00 is enclosed for the filing fee.

This application is being filed under the provisions of 37 C.F.R. § 1.53(f).
Applicants await notification from the Patent and Trademark Office of the time set for
filing the Declaration.

Applicants claim the right to priority based on European Application No. 99830189.9 filed April 1, 1999, and the benefit of U.S. Provisional Application No. 60/134,665, filed May 18, 1999.

Please address all correspondence with respect to this application to:

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Please accord this application a serial number and filing date.

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The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional filing fees due and any other fees due under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or § 1.17 during the pendency of this application to our Deposit Account No. 06-0916.

Sincerely,

FINNEGAN, HENDERSON, FARABOW,
GARRETT & DUNNER, L.L.P.

By:

Ernest F. Chapman

EFC/gah
Enclosures

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